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DATE: January 15, 2004

RE: Patent Application  
of Takashi NIWA et al.  
Serial No. 09/740,664  
Filing Date: December 19, 2000  
Group Art Unit: 2878  
Examiner: Thanh X. Luu  
Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306  
Attorney's Docket No. S004-4168

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER PAGE: 13

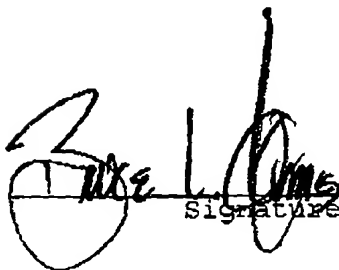
TITLE OF PAPERS:

- (1) PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME AND REQUIRED EXTENSION FEE
- (2) SECOND AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL UNDER RULE 116

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Application of :  
Takashi NIWA et al. :  
Serial No. 09/740,664 : Group Art Unit: 2878  
Filed: December 19, 2000 :  
For: NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL PROBE : Examiner - Thanh X. Luu  
HAVING CANTILEVER AND :  
PROBE FORMED OF TRANS- :  
PARENT MATERIAL, METHOD :  
FOR MANUFACTURING NEAR- :  
FIELD OPTICAL PROBE, AND :  
OPTICAL APPARATUS HAVING :  
NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL :  
PROBE (As Amended) : Docket No. S004-4168

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SECOND AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL  
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S I R:

In further response to the Office Action dated  
September 16, 2003, applicants amend their application as  
follows:

BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION ON JANUARY 15, 2003